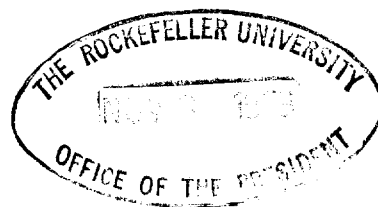


# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

November 1, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
President  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

I write in comment upon the letter dated 25 October addressed to Mayor Koch and President Bellamy. It is an excellent letter and constitutes an entirely proper reply to the city.

The one section which I would not have included is that entitled "University's Economic Situation." It is in the nature of all universities that they are always financially hard pressed. They always somewhat overcommit themselves. It is no news that taxation would be a financial burden. But so is it upon most corporate enterprises and private individuals who pay taxes on real property; all would prefer to retain those financial resources to use for their usual purposes. Hence, I view that section as essentially unpersuasive and not particularly relevant.

I do consider that the sections on "Highlights of the University's Contribution to Medical Sciences" and "Broader Relationships with the City" are entirely relevant because they indicate that the programs of the University are indeed those of the character which justified the law which granted exemptions to institutions of such character. Hence, they are not only relevant but right on target.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil".

Philip Handler  
President



BWN